

ROMEO & JULIET

Questions for teachers. To use in class.

- 1 In 'normal' tragedy the hero makes a mistake and suffers: do you think Romeo and Juliet make mistakes?
- 2 Who is the stronger character in the play, Romeo or Juliet? Which one do you like the most?
- 3 What do you think of the Friar's plan, is it foolish or clever, is he to blame for the tragic end?
- 4 What do you think of Lord Capulet's behaviour? Does he love his daughter, does he want the best for her or is he a bully and a bad father?
- 5 Cupid is the god of love in classical myth. What do you think he is doing in Shakespeare's play and is it a good idea that our production makes him more than a word but a character?
- 6 Love and death are big themes in the play. Are they in opposition or are they somehow linked? For example can Romeo and Juliet's extreme love survive normal life, or is it only possible because they die before they become bored with ordinary life? (Could their love survive Juliet washing Romeo's socks?).
- 7 Why do you think the Nurse and Mercutio are in the play? Do either of them believe in romantic love?
- 8 Is Mercutio to blame for Romeo's tragedy? Would Thybalt fight Romeo without Mercutio's provocation?
- 9 Is Mercutio jealous of Juliet? Can gang warfare be prevented if young men spent more time with women?
- 10 Does the Nurse want the best for Juliet, is she her second mother? If so why does she recommend Juliet marries Paris in the second half? Is that wise and practical or a betrayal?
- 11 Do you see any similarity between the Jesus story and the play? Juliet goes through death to find true love. But in this case she does not rise. The play is full of symbols from Christian and Roman stories. Can you see any others? Do you think it explains why the story is so romantic or poetic and not "sensible"?
- 12 When Juliet goes to see the Friar in the second half, she is already out of her Father's house and could just go to be with Romeo (now her husband) in Mantua but she goes back to her Father's house and doesn't get on a mule and escape! Why?
- 13 Why do you think ROMEO AND JULIET is the most popular play ever written? (Despite being hundreds of years old!).

Paul Stebbings TNT Theatre 2018